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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 196

31 MAY 1955

1. The following were present:

Mr. D. J. Clinton	State
Mr. R. S. Kain	State
* Mr. Herbert J. Liebesny	State
Maj. J. W. Jacobson	Army
Capt. H. G. Moore	Navy
LCdr. J. Madden	Navy
Col. James J. Hausman	Air Force
Maj. Samuel H. Ware	Air Force
	CIA (Chairman)
	CIA (Vice Chairman)
	CIA (Secretary)

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* In attendance during Committee discussion
on treatment of segmented NIS Areas.

2. Coordination of Special Armed Forces Maps

The chairman requested the views of the service members on the coordination of special armed forces maps (refer to paragraph 7 of NIS Committee meeting No. 195). The members reported they were still conferring with their Chapter IX representatives on this matter. It was their general opinion that better coordination procedures between the mapping services and their respective intelligence agencies could be worked out to improve the situation. The reading panels will be instructed to pass armed forces maps to other service agencies which might have an interest in them. The members considered that steps being taken should clear up the present difficulties. They requested the chairman to so inform the Chapter IX coordinator and to request him to watch developments and to inform the NIS Committee in the event any further action was required.

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3. Chapter I Schedule for FY-1957

The Committee considered the proposed dates for scheduling Chapter I for FY-1957 on specified areas as outlined at the last meeting (refer to paragraph 7 of NIS Committee meeting No. 192). Because of the fluid situation in Indochina it was suggested that Chapter I on NIS 43 be scheduled for FY-1958 and Finland be substituted in the FY-1957 schedule. The vice chairman requested the members to examine this change and discuss the matter at the next meeting.

4. Report of Working Committee on Segmented NIS Areas

The chairman referred to the report of the working committee on segmented NIS Areas, dated 20 May 1955, copies of which had been transmitted to working committee members and to NIS Committee members. The report set forth certain principles to which the working committee had agreed, namely:

"a. Geographic treatments should conform to established NIS Areas or Subareas as defined.

"b. Chapter II geographic area treatment for certain large or complex NIS Areas (such as NIS 26) should be continued, except that Section 20 will be prepared for the NIS Area as a whole.

"c. Subareas, if used, will be as delineated, without rearrangement or partial combinations.

"d. For certain small NIS Areas or Subareas, or those otherwise not warranting standard coverage, consolidated treatment is appropriate, subject to NIS Committee review of the circumstances at the time."

The report contained a list of segmented NIS Areas (Tab A) on which the working committee unanimously agreed, together with a list of segmented NIS Areas (Tab B) on which there was a difference of opinion. The working committee recommended that the NIS Committee re-examine existing guidance pertaining to consolidated treatment of NIS to establish scope and techniques of consolidated treatment and that appropriate guidance be incorporated in the Standard Instructions. The working committee agreed that: Socotra be transferred from NIS 55 to Aden Protectorate in NIS 32 to which it politically belongs; Cabinda, now listed as part of NIS 52 and variously shown on two editions of the NIS Areas map, should

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be identified with Angola as part of NIS 59; in most instances, small enclaves such as Goa and Gwadar can be treated as appropriate in the introductory sections of chapters of the NIS Areas or Subareas in which they are located.

A general discussion of the working committee's report followed. The chairman reviewed the broad problem in terms of the following fundamental considerations:

- a) In his opinion, NIS Subareas so designated should have the stature of new NIS Areas and should be treated as such across the board for all chapters, except in unusual cases.

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- b) The working committee has requested guidance on consolidated treatment for NIS. In this respect the chairman indicated he had requested the D/B staff to develop such guidance in the form of an outline guide to be incorporated in the NIS Standard Instructions upon approval of the NIS Committee. The chairman illustrated types of consolidated chapter treatment as those indicated by Chapter IV on Greenland and Chapter V on Iceland. He further expressed the view that an annex as such appeared to be infeasible for NIS purposes since it was not integral with the NIS format and would be a sort of loose-end operation at best. In those instances where a consolidated chapter treatment would not suffice it appeared that a summary treatment of appropriate topics in the introductory sections could serve such purposes. The NIS Committee had previously held that the Chapter I type of treatment is inappropriate for such consolidated treatments. A so-called "consolidated NIS" appeared, in the view of the chairman, as being merely another form of Chapter I treatment. He pointed out that, even though the coverage of most chapters on undeveloped areas would be slight, Chapter II material would require extensive detail beyond the scope of a consolidated NIS.

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c) A third factor discussed by the chairman involved the releasability of NIS in cases where a combination of Subareas would develop control complications. It was his opinion that releasability of NIS should be of secondary consideration in the determination of Subareas. The primary problem is to develop Subareas which will best meet overall NIS requirements for U. S. users.

Considering these various factors the chairman requested the members to examine carefully the recommendations of the working committee and come prepared at the next meeting to determine the final list of NIS Areas and Subareas. In particular he requested consideration be given to removing segmented treatment in the following Areas in Tab A:

NIS 35 - India, Bhutan, Nepal, Jammu and Kashmir
NIS 48 - Morocco
NIS 55 - Ethiopia, Eritrea, and the Somalilands
NIS 81 - British West Indies
NIS 95 - The Guianas

With respect to NIS Areas listed in Tab B on which the working committee could not reach agreement he recommended that consideration be given to simplifying the Subarea treatment to the fullest extent.

5. Proposal for Integrating "Key Personalities" Unit into the NIS Framework

The chairman requested the committee to give consideration to integrating the "Key Personalities" unit into the NIS framework. He indicated that a logical basis would be to develop the "Key Personalities" unit as a new Chapter X. He felt that the "Soviet Personalities" which is being published at the present time need not be so designated, but that future ones should be fitted into the NIS format for practical reasons. The committee discussed this proposal at some length. The Navy member questioned the advisability of developing "Key Personalities" outside of the related chapters inasmuch as there was an element of current intelligence concerned with such biographies. The State member, on the other hand, indicated that the background material appearing in "Key Personalities" biographies was the source of valuable information to users. The Committee agreed that the biographical coverage in the NIS should stress the basic rather than the current factors that contribute to an individual's importance. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

6. Visits of Analysts to Graphics Register

The vice chairman called attention to the assistance which can be rendered by Graphics Register, CIA, in fulfilling photographic requirements from its own collection and from other photographic libraries with which it maintains active liaison. However, analysts too often send in such comprehensive requirements that Graphics Register is given inadequate guidance. The vice chairman suggested that early in the course of writing a section the analyst personally visit Graphics Register, preferably by appointment, and make his selection from the actual photographic files and indicate specifically what other photographs he needs. By stating his requirements early enough Graphics Register can do a much better job of filling the gaps. Analysts should make their appointments through [REDACTED] Code 143, Ext. 2657, Room 24, Building No. 14.

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7. NIS Dissemination Requirements and Reporting Methods

The vice chairman reported that the problem of excessive NIS returns to the Records Center has been largely overcome. In order to keep the matter in hand he suggested each agency indicate dissemination requirements for all sections scheduled in FY-1956. To assist the members in reporting the requirements of their respective agencies D/B will furnish a list of all sections scheduled for the year on which the agencies may indicate their requirements for each section. This list will be prepared shortly after the FY-1956 schedule is firmed up, and requirements reported not later than 1 September 1955. These lists should be reviewed and brought up to date semi-annually.

8. Release of NIS to SHAPE and SACLANT

The Committee recommended to State-Defense Military Information Control Committee the release of NIS contained in Supplemental List No. 2 to SHAPE and SACLANT in accordance with provisions of IAC-D-45/12 (Revised) dated 10 June 1953.

9. Miscellany

a. The chairman said he would appreciate comments from the members on the operations of the NIS Program within their agencies during the past year which could be helpful to him in writing the annual report. These comments should frankly appraise the problems and attainments of the NIS Program within the several agencies with the view to constructive improvement.

b. The Committee agreed to review Chapter I on NIS 42 (Thailand) at the next regular meeting.

c. The Army member reported there had been a question of control on certain Navy photographs in Sections 20, 21 and 24 of NIS 43. The Navy member said he would investigate the matter and make a report to the chairman.

d. At the request of the Army member the vice chairman agreed to have the CIA heading placed on future NIS Quarterly Reports.

10. The next meeting of the NIS Committee will be held at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 14 June 1955.

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